

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

April 21, 2003

TO: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

REQUEST FOR AGENCY PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT APPLICATION FOR A SMALL POWER PLANT EXEMPTION (03-SPPE-1)

On April 21, 2003, the Modesto Irrigation District (MID) filed an application for a Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE), (03-SPPE-1). MID is seeking an exemption from the California Energy Commission's (Energy Commission) licensing requirements. If an exemption is granted, the applicant will need to secure the appropriate licenses and permits for the project from various local, state and federal agencies.

MID proposes to construct and operate a 95-megawatt (MW) generation plant called the Modesto Irrigation District Electric Generation Station (MEGS). The natural gas-fired simple cycle plant will consist of two General Electric LM 6000 SPRINT combustion turbines. Part of the proposed project includes the construction of approximately .25 miles of new 69-kV sub-transmission line and fiber optic cable, approximately .25 miles of new eight-inch natural gas supply line, and water supply and wastewater tap lines into existing City of Ripon lines located in South Stockton Avenue. The project is proposed to be located on a 12.25-acre site at South Stockton Avenue and Doak Boulevard in Ripon, California, in San Joaquin County and will occupy approximately six acres near the northern side of the project site.

ENERGY COMMISSION'S FACILITY EXEMPTION PROCESS

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's SPPE process allows projects between 50 and 100 MW to proceed with local approval rather than requiring an Energy Commission license. An exemption from this licensing process is available if the Energy Commission finds that the project will not create a substantial adverse impact on the environment or energy resources. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and will prepare an Initial Study that examines the public health and safety, and environmental impacts of the proposed project including all related facilities such as electric transmission lines, natural gas pipelines and waterlines.

During the next four months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the exemption request should be approved and under what set of conditions. These workshops will provide the public, as well as local, state and federal agencies, the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue

April 21, 2003

Page 2

notices for these workshops and hearings, normally 14 days, but in no case later than 10 days, prior to each meeting.

AGENCY PARTICIPATION

We request that you provide any written comments you may have regarding the disclosure of potential issues of concern by May 12, 2003. Please provide your comments to James W. Reede, Jr., the Energy Commission's Project Manager at (916) 653-1245 or e-mail jreede@energy.state.ca.us.

Your participation in the proceeding is encouraged and will consist of identifying and working to resolve issues of concern to your agency. If the Energy Commission approves the Modesto Irrigation District Electric Generation Station (MEGS), and exempts it from the Application for Certification process, it will issue the applicant a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration. The applicant will then be responsible for obtaining all necessary local, state and federal permits required to construct and operate the project. If you have questions or would like additional information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact James W. Reede, Jr., the Energy Commission's Project Manager at (916) 653-1245 or e-mail jreede@energy.state.ca.us.

The status of the project, copies of notices and other relevant documents will be placed on the Energy Commission's web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ripon>.

Sincerely,

PAUL RICHINS, JR.
Energy Facilities Licensing Program Manager

Enclosure

Mailed to Modesto Irrigation District Electric Generation Station, Agency Mail list